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LETTER DATED 11 JULY 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of note verbale No. 7/4/1/11/68 dated 27 June 1989 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq addressed to the International Committee of the Red Cross on the question of the treatment of Iraqi prisoners of war at the hands of the Iranian régime.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ismat KITTANI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Note verbale dated 27 June 1989 from the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of Iraq addressed to the International Committee of
the Red Cross in Geneva

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva and has the honour to place before it important information provided by Iraqi prisoners returning from Iranian captivity which testifies to the inhuman methods used by the Iranian authorities against Iraqi prisoners to affect their loyalty and to change their religious and political persuasions. A summary of this information is given below:

1. Treatment of prisoners

- (a) The prisoners are subjected to extremely unpleasant treatment, especially those who refuse to co-operate with the Iranian authorities and who are therefore subjected to various types of physical and psychological torture designed to change their political, religious and sectarian beliefs. As a result of this inhuman treatment, many of the prisoners fall prey to various physical and psychological illnesses.
- (b) The prisoners are forced, collectively and individually, to pronounce what is termed "the repentance". This applies especially to those returning prisoners who are disabled or sick and therefore prone to accept such treatment.

2. Psycho-political orientation

The Iranian authorities resort to the following methods and devices in order to influence the prisoners:

- (a) Giving lectures of a sectarian and political nature which distort the facts about Iraq and bring the prisoners to a state of desperation and loss of hope of returning to their homeland, as well as attempts to give the prisoners a guilt complex;
- (b) Distributing collections of newspapers and pamphlets with poisonous orientations to influence the persuasions of the prisoners.

3. Psychological warfare

The Iranian authorities have continued their attempts to sow disunity within the prisoner-of-war camps, by:

- (a) Introducing among the prisoners a number of collaborators with the authorities with the view to sowing mistrust among the prisoners themselves;
- (b) Creating religious and sectarian divisions among the prisoners;

/...

(c) Fabricating charges against the leaders, torturing them and humiliating them;

(d) Causing problems among the prisoners by means of starvation and collective punishments;

(e) Giving power to those prisoners who co-operate with the Iranian authorities in a way which serves the interests of those authorities.

The Foreign Ministry, in underscoring the seriousness of this information, which reflects a gross violation of the third Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 1949, vehemently protests at these practices to which the Iranian régime resorts, in violation of all international laws and customs, against the Iraqi prisoners, and urges the International Committee of the Red Cross and all international organizations and institutions to intervene and to do their utmost to prevail upon the Iranian régime to desist from such inhuman practices against the Iraqi prisoners and to induce respect for the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

